Detroit June 21. 1838 Thursday morning

My very dear Brother

I commence this with the feeling, that I have scarcely matter enough to fill my sheet, which can in any way interest or amuse you — but I will do the best I can, & trust to your brotherly kindness to accept of it — such as it may prove to be — I have had no later intelligence than March 12th from you — & my last letter from New Haven was dated the 19th of May — so that I am quite ignorant with regard to all my friends, except those around me — I have heard however accidentally that brother Charles was run for Mayor in opposition to Mr Flagg — but that the latter had a majority of 90 — I believe C — intends to visit D — this summer but I cannot ascertain, whether he proposes to remove hither —

My last was written so soon after my arrival that I had not had time to look about & see the changes & improvements which two years had wrought in this city of the west — I do not however find them very considerable, though some fine houses have been erected — The "hard times" have had an influence here as elsewhere — & the general aspect of things remains much the same Some state improvements have however been made, in the way of rail roads — so that the facilities for travelling into the interior, are much increased There is one from this place to Ypsilanti, twenty five miles, in successful operation — & the Pontiac road is open 12 miles — The ordinary roads of the country for 25 or 30 miles into the interior are horrible, indeed scarcely passable — but this Ypsilanti road, takes one nearly over this ~~level tract~~ — & ten miles beyond, at Ann Arbour the, country is hilly & affords fine water still beyond, the face of the country is said to improve in beauty — diversified by hill & valley — by innumerable small lakes, clear streams, & magnificent "oak openings" — — I hope to see something of all this fine scenery this summer — for hitherto my eye has not fallen in Michigan upon any thing but a dead level — with the exception of several, high sand bluffs, on the eastern shore of Lake M — — — — — The navigation of the Lakes is increasing with astonishing rapidity — every kind of craft is multiplying daily — & as for steam boats they are almost innumerable. — Boats go weekly to Chicago — — — — A sad accident has recently occurred on Lake Erie of the ~~particulars~~ details of which I am not very particularly acquainted — The "Washington," a new boat, on her first return passage from this place, was burnt & many passengers perished — The fire originated in the intense heat of the furnaces & the wheel ropes were burnt in two, before the boat could be run ashore. It occurred within about twenty five miles of Buffalo — There have been of course contradictory statements with regard to the number that perished — but it is supposed that there were at least forty — — These lamentable events do not impress us so deeply as they ought or as they would do, if we had suffered personally the loss of friends — but yet I can not revert to ~~it~~ them without horror — The explosion of the Moselle at Cincinnati, two months since, was more deplorable, because more suffered by it — There, 150 lives were lost — to gratify the pride of man in showing off a fine new boat — — The "Washington" was built at the same place, that another boat of the same name was built, some few years since & which being constructed on the plan of the North river boats — was broken in two in a gale on *her* first return passage from this place — This is the first *very serious* accident which has occurred to any boat on the Lakes — —

I mentioned Anna's indisposition — & I am sorry to be obliged to say she is still an invalid — Three days after we came she took to her bed, & was nearly confined to it for *ten* days — Copious bleeding, blistering &c, prostrated her entirely — & even *now* she is scarcely able to move about — The affection of the Lungs is the most dangerous, but we do not suppose it to be a settled disease — that which is most troublesome, & which confines her most is an affection of the kidneys — — — The youngest child is at present quite sick, occasioned probably by teeth — & perhaps by weaning at this unfavorable season — She is nearly a year & has not yet a single tooth — She is a dear pretty child, full of life & vivacity when well, but now pale, suffering & irritable — — Sophia takes the whole care of her, thus relieving Anna of much anxiety — — — Helen has still the management of the family — & as we usually count sixteen, it is no little care for one so inexperienced — — She longs to get to housekeeping — but the house at Brest is not yet ready — & they have some idea that they will conclude to remain here — — — This is a noble house of Mr Romeyn's, but I have many fears that Anna will never have health & strength to enjoy it — It is finished in fine style — & the paint of the interior is in imitation of oak — My own is a pleasant room with a western view of the fields & woods of the adjacent country — — From the top of the house we overlook the entire city — above — as far as Lake St. Clair & below — some distance beyond Sandwich point where the river bends — The view is a magnificent one — in every direction including both sides of the river — & we think to enjoy it much at evening —

Mr W— likes this region for being level, but he cannot endure the soil, & the want of water— He has now gone to B— with Mr Tracy— & there, they have fine water

I was quite surprised & gratified a few days since by a call from cousin Henry, & as he remained two or three days in the city, I saw him several times— Mr Pomeroy was with him— & they were on their way to Indiana & Illinois looking at the country as they advanced, with some view of a removal, if any place of *superior advantages*, presented itself— Mr P— is about to remove his family to Brockport for the ~~coming~~ present year— & I have a very pressing invitation to stop & make them a visit on my return— Uncle H—'s health continues excellent— but Aunt is still feeble— — — — We have some rumours of disturbances on various parts of our Canadian frontier— though *here* all is quiet— A short time since a British boat was burnt on Lake Ontario, on the American side. She had stopped to wood at an island when she was attacked by a lawless band, the passengers (who were in their berths) ordered on shore without the privilege of taking their clothing— & after taking possession of a large amount of specie the boat was moved off & set on fire— 8 persons were taken for this piratical act, of whom *seven* proved to be Canadian refugees— Gov Ma came on immediately & U.S. troops have been stationed at different places we hope nothing calamitous will grow out of it—

The society of this place is generally gay— though of course there are m serious people in the city— We have had calls *enough*— & some invitations I went once very contrary to my inclination to the Governor's, found however a pleasant party & as usual, was glad that I went— — — I have heard the remark made repeatedly— that the gentlemen of D— are very much given to wine drinking— indeed I believe there is a great deal of dissipation here— D— is a very good place to visit— & *may* be a good place for business— but give me eastern customs & manners in preference to the more careless, reckless ones of the west— I cannot bear to think of brother C—'s leaving N.H. & coming here but I hope he will decide for the best, however it may be— — —

The weather for the last two weeks has been very warm, with frequent showers— & vegetation has become very luxuriant— We ride frequently, (for it is Anna's greatest enjoyment & of essential benefit to her to exercise thus in the open air,) & have by this means an opportunity to see the beautiful green fields of grass & clover which abound in the vicinity— We have a fine ride up the river of about three miles— Formerly we rode often on the Canada side, but now that the country is under martial law we do not venture over— There is a company of coloured troops stationed opposite the city, who are called the "Queens *Black* Guards"

June 22nd I have been hoping for a long time that I should get intelligence from our eastern friends – but every day has brought disappointment – & I have still to hope & expect & wonder that they do not write — With regard to hearing from you my dear brother – I am always & ever anxious – but especially now! My heart will be relieved of a great burden when we hear of your safe arrival at Jerusalem! – God grant that such tidings may soon reach us! — – If you follow out your original plans I suppose this will reach you in Germany – if so give my best love to sister Theresa, to Mimi, & a kiss for precious little Eddy —

I shall send this off to day, in order that it may be in good time for the ship of the 1st – it might reach N.Y. if despatched two or three days later & it might not — Anna & Helen have read your letters through with much interest & also cousin Henry — — Your affectionate sister Elisabeth —

Love from all —

~~pr Paquebot de la Méditerranée~~ – DD

E. R. June 24. '38
Rec^d at Constantinople
Aug.

Rev. Edward Robinson D.D.
aux soins de Mr. Wm. Goodell Missionaire Americain
~~[illegible]~~
~~M.M. Delaunay et Cie~~
~~au Havre~~ Constantinople
~~(France)~~

NEW-YORK JUN 29

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BUREAU MARITIME 24 JUIL 1838

AOUT 1838